



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GARDENnotes

AUTUMN 2019



Acer japonicum 'Aconitifolium'
Photo by Richie Steffen

IS A NATURALISTIC MEADOW GARDEN FOR YOU?

Words & Images by Sue Goetz

WE READ THE BUZZ, attend talks by Nigel Dunnnett, Sarah Price, Claudia West and watch the movie, *Five Seasons, the Gardens of Piet Oudolf*. The romance and magic of naturalistic landscape design and lush meadows of ornamental grasses and perennials are getting our attention, but is it for you?

Some of these designers are transforming

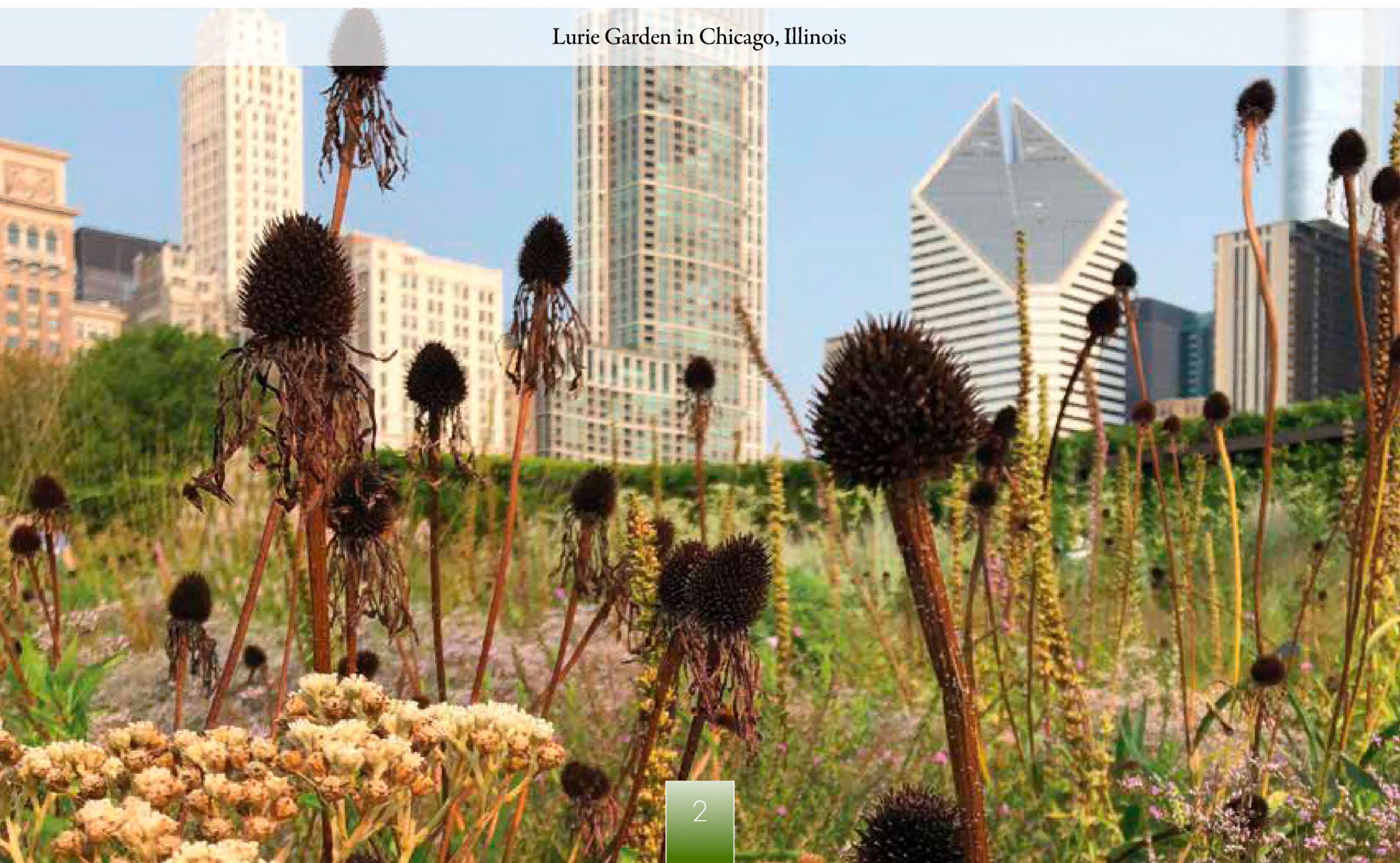
how we think about landscape design. A walk through the Lurie Garden in Chicago or the High Line in New York will give you a moment to see firsthand the gardens created in this flowing natural style. Beauty and the buzz, is it for every garden? Does size matter? How do we design them properly for longevity and sustainability? These are big questions and certainly an article needing more

word count than I have here to really dig deep into the how and the why. However, let's look at a condensed list of some of the concepts that can be utilized that work no matter what the size or space.

Save the Duff

Droppings, clippings? Duff? The duff is the deadheaded flowers, leaves, stems, etc. that are cut down and left on the soil in

Lurie Garden in Chicago, Illinois



the place where it is grown to decompose and add organic matter back to the soil. The look of plant “litter” isn’t always acceptable, but a mulched-up form of it might be or the consistent look of a single material like fall leaves. If leaving plant debris on the ground is still too messy for your taste, then consider breaking it down by composting the duff to a more palatable texture. If the compost bin isn’t your thing either, look for local sources of composted materials to use and become more conscious of how local debris is handled in and out of the garden.

Low Water

Drought tolerant plants, once established, require little to no extra water beyond what nature gives. Just remember the “once established” rule. Even drought-tolerant plants require water the first season or two until the root system is established. New roots need to make a connection to the ground deeply where they will then become self-sufficient and find their own source of water. It takes a few seasons (or more, depending on the plant) to establish a good root system. Plants that grow deep, healthy roots systems insulated by cooler, moist earth are more apt to survive dry times of the year.

Plant Communities

This is the logic of grouping plants that grow in the same cultural conditions. Sun with sun, shade with shade and plants with the same water needs. It’s not mixing plants together because they are pretty, it is mixing them together because they are pretty, and they have all the same cultural needs. Designing plant communities isn’t tricky, but it does take some thought and becoming familiar with a plant’s growing habit. Don’t put boisterous plants next to submissive ones. Grow plants that get along and have similar root systems that will together cover the soil.

Design Maintenance before Plants

Redefine your landscape as “low input” instead of low maintenance. The difference? Low-input is a garden designed initially with elements that will not need to be overly maintained over the years to keep the landscape aesthetically pleasing. Evaluate how much you want to put into maintenance and what demands you will tolerate in the care of the garden during the design process. Start with plants in the right place without the need for shearing or pruning, evaluate the soil and amend it if needed, correct problems like drainage and diligently clear weeds. Do all this first.

Size Does Not Matter

It doesn’t need to be the luxurious acres of natural meadows to work. Perhaps it is as simple as the addition of a natural plant community to an existing garden. Weave small plot plantings between existing trees and shrub borders or remove lawn to ribbon a natural meadow into a landscape or along a pathway. A plant community can simply be 3 or 4 well-chosen plant varieties combined and repeated along a border. Just stick to the concept of grouping plants properly so that the care is the same.

Small spaces, typical to our urban dwelling, may not seem ideal to create natural planting designs, but we can choose to strike a balance between the cultured and naturalistic. These natural plantings help us rethink the landscape tradition of clearing land, planting diva, needy plants and covering everything with bark. It is more about creating landscapes with an ecological, sustainable point of view. ♪



High Line public park, New York, New York



Rudbeckia hirta in High Line park, New York, New York

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Growing Healthy Food, People and Community with the GRuB Victory Farm and Garden Project

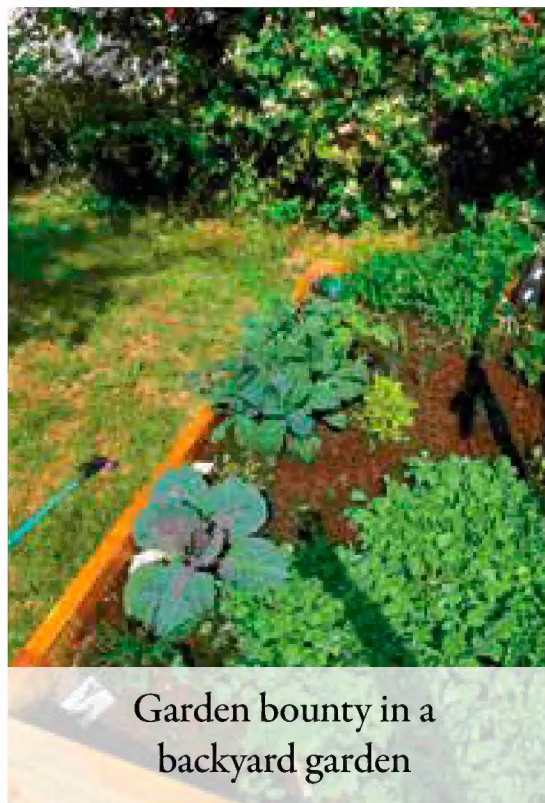
By Sadie Gilliom, Beau Gromley, Jennah McDonald and Deb Crockett, Images from GRuB

THANK YOU to the Northwest Horticultural Society for your generous support of GRuB's Victory Garden Project and Victory Farm. Together, we are increasing food access, fostering a love of gardening, and encouraging the care of the earth and our community!

GRuB (Garden-Raised Bounty) is a non-profit organization in Olympia with the mission of growing healthy food, people, and community. We partner with youth, seniors, veterans, people with low incomes, and the community at large to offer the resources needed to nurture our community and our environment. It is our belief that by uprooting the traditional food system and replacing it with a new model that is just as sustainable, we can inspire positive personal and larger community change.

The Victory Garden Project (VGP) and the Victory Farm are two intersecting programs working towards

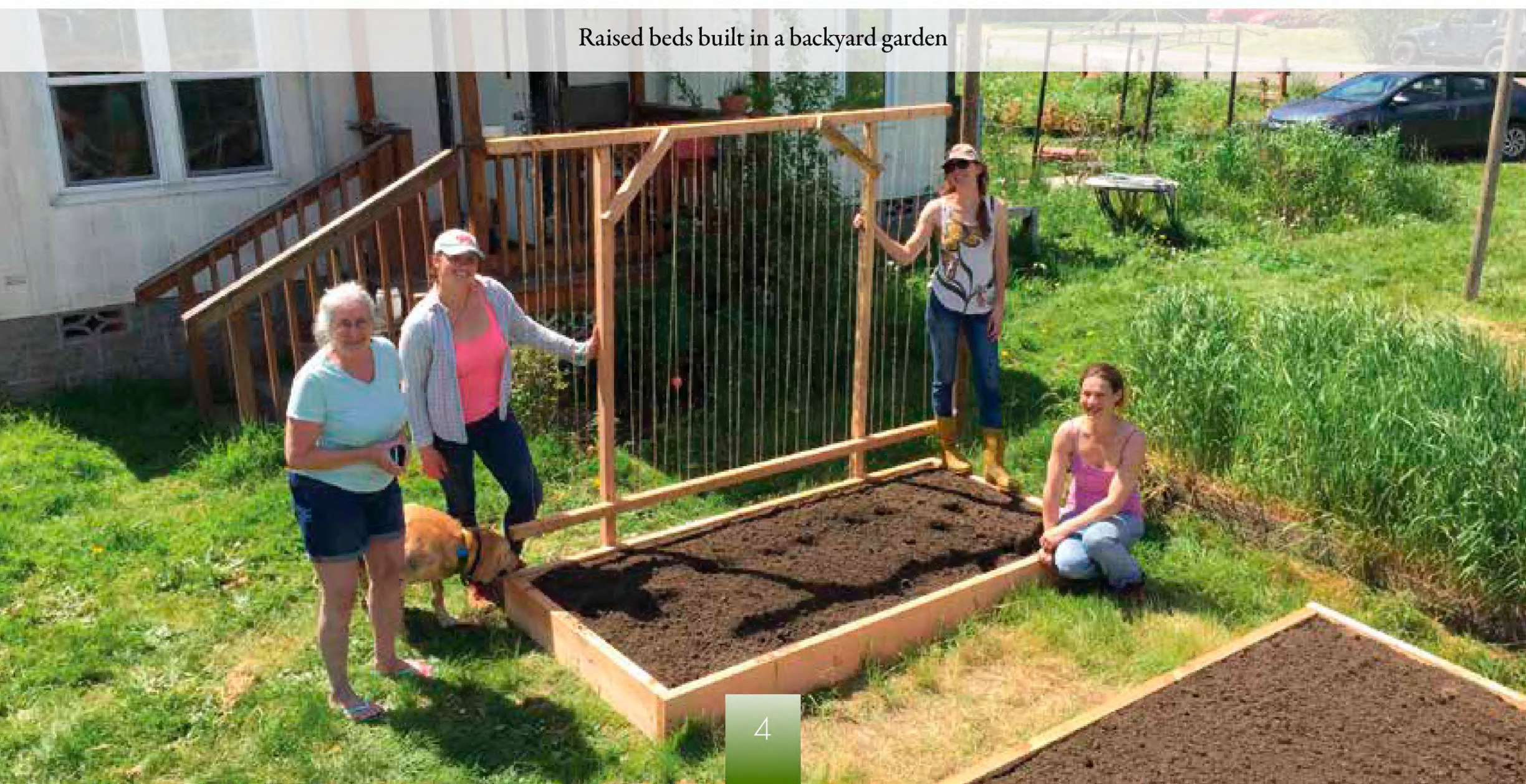
our goal. The VGP is a veteran-run initiative to provide backyard gardens for Thurston County residents with low incomes. Since 1993, we have built over 2900 free backyard gardens. The Victory Farm is a new half-acre veteran-led farm located on the grounds of the new Lacey Food Bank Hub. At the Victory Farm, veterans and their families experience a safer space to connect with each other and the land, to learn sustainable growing techniques, and to contribute to the community. All food from the farm is donated to the food bank or brought home by the veteran farmers to feed themselves and their families.



Garden bounty in a backyard garden

2019 Achievements of the Victory Garden Project

With the support of Northwest Horticultural Society, the VGP accomplished the following in 2019:



Raised beds built in a backyard garden

- **Installed 42 free backyard gardens for families with low-incomes.** Most gardens have three raised beds, though gardeners may opt for containers or a taller accessible bed instead.
- Provided gardeners with **free seeds, seedlings, gardening workshops and monthly mentoring calls.** In August, gardeners received an in-person visit from a member of our Victory Garden Support Team.
- Engaged hundreds of **volunteers in supporting their neighbors.** Volunteers include veterans, business teams, civic service organizations, and youth from our job readiness programs.
- Held our **May There Be Gardens Event** on May 4th, where we built 9 gardens in one day alone!

The VGP gardens do so much more than provide families with low-incomes with a means to grow healthy and fresh food. As one of this year's gardeners said:

"I cannot express enough gratitude for how you changed my life. This came at a time when I absolutely needed it physically and mentally... This has been an absolute revolution in my perspective, my body and my spirit. I am exercising daily for the first time... I feel hope and momentum that I have not felt in a long time."

2019 Achievements of the Victory Farm

With the support of Northwest Horticultural Society, the following happened at the Victory Farm in 2019:

- Hands-on training and in-depth workshops for veterans, their families and supporting community members on small scale market gardening, gourmet mushroom cultivation, beekeeping and honey production, urban food forest design, scalable composting and value-added products and production.
- Veterans implemented their design of the Victory Farm through building raised beds, a shelter for community gatherings and installing beehives.
- Veterans, their families and supporting community members used their skills to nurture the soil and plants and grow food together in community.

- Partnerships were formed with numerous organizations to help veterans and their families. These included: the Thurston County Food Bank, the City of Lacey, the City of Olympia, the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, the Farmer Veteran Coalition, Veteran Ecological Trades Coalition, Lacey Veterans Services Hub and more.

"The design and subsequent building of GRuB's Victory Farm has been a lifesaver for me. I was injured during a firefight in Afghanistan and, after two years of physical therapy, PTSD counseling, and pain management, was medically discharged.

I spent nearly 15 years in the service and while I knew that I could get a job following the military, I didn't think that I would or could find something that I would truly feel proud to be a part of again. With the help of dozens of volunteers and some very important community partnerships, GruB's Victory Farm began to take shape and I was lucky enough to be a part of it. In a few short months we changed an abandoned, overgrown urban lot into a thriving urban farm and community educational space. Just as the Victory Farm was starting to "really get growing" I was diagnosed with cancer. This new community of colleagues, volunteers, service providers, and complete strangers, without being asked, came together to help keep the Victory Farm alive and thriving during my downtime. This amazing

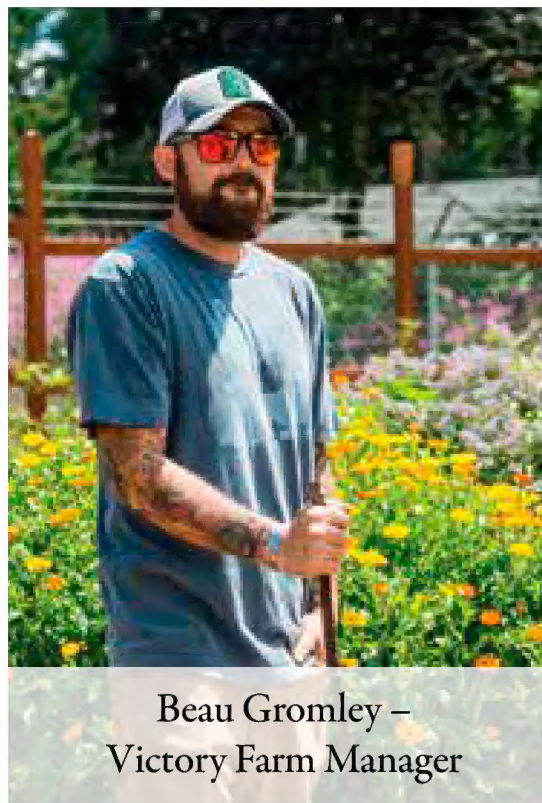
new community also sent dozens of messages of encouragement, prayers and several weeks' worth of healthy, delicious meals to my family and I. GRuB's Victory Farm is truly growing healthy food, healthy people and a healthy community."

— Beau Gromley, Lead Victory Farmer

"The Victory Farm has helped me build new friendships and helped me feel like I'm part of a healthy community again. My time at the Victory Farm has improved my outlook on life and brought me closer to my son."

— Peter S., Victory Farmer

We welcome members of the NW Horticultural Society to visit the Victory Farm on Fridays, or to sign up to help with a future garden build. Please visit www.goodgrub.org or call (360) 753-5522 for more information. 🌿



Beau Gromley –
Victory Farm Manager



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

by Daniel Mount

Symphyotrichum novi-belgii (New York aster) – Wikipedia Commons – Christer T. Johansson

I CAME TO PERENNIALS LATE IN LIFE, but by the time I started gardening, I already had some favorites from my early childhood adventures in the railroad yard near my home. Spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*), Common milkweed (*Aesclepius syriaca*) and goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.) grew wild there and are still among my favorite plants. But, deeper in my heart are the asters.

But asters, at least some of them, are asters no more.

A general and loud “Harumpf!” went through the horticulture community a few decades ago when we were notified that bota-

nists changed some of the most popular members of the genus *Aster* to the tongue-twister *Symphyotrichum*. “Was this really necessary?” many gardeners asked. In fact, it was.

Let me explain.

The name Aster, taken from the Greek word for star by Linnaeus in 1753, was a rambling genus of 600 species, found from the mountaintops of Europe to the swamps of Mexico. It is amazing all these species landed in one genus to begin with.

During the last decades of the 20th century studies of the chromosomes of the asters revealed that the North American asters evolved independently of the Eurasian asters. They are actually more closely related to our goldenrods and fleabanes, than the Eurasian asters they shared a generic name with. Because of the rules of botanical nomenclature, the European asters had taxonomic priority over American asters and got to keep their name leaving the approximately 180 American members of the genus *Aster* without a botanical name.

I'm sure that led to some creative head-scratching. The rules of botanical nomenclature stepped in, again. As it turns out, back in 1832 the German physician and botanist Christian Gottfried Daniel Nees von Esenbeck—talk about a name—had already noticed a superficial difference between the American and Eurasian asters. What he noticed was a coherent ring of hairs on the back of the inflorescence; *Symphyotrichum* literally means “growing together hairs.” Von Esenbeck was a prolific botanist, describing over 7000 taxa in his lifetime. Though his botany at the time was lacking, his hunch about the American asters was correct leaving the name *Symphyotrichum* sleeping in the annals of taxonomy until 1994.

In the later decades of the last century, botanist Guy Nesom was doing extensive research and reorganization of the aster family, or Asteraceae, in particular the genus *Aster*. He is the person responsible for renaming them *Symphyotrichum*.

But not all of them.

Only 90 of the New World asters ended up in the genus *Symphyotrichum*. One true aster

remains in the North American flora, *A. alpinus*, a Eurasian species whose range extends from Asia into Alaska and British

Columbia, with an isolated population in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. The rest ended up in *Almutaster*, *Ampelaster*, *Canadanthus*, *Chloracantha*, *Doellingeria*, *Eucephalus*, *Eurybia*, *Oclemena*, *Oreostemma*, *Sericocarpus* and *Solidago*. Luckily for us we probably won't find any of them at our local nursery, so we can promptly forget those names.

But what does this mean to us gardeners?

Not much really. We will keep referring to asters as asters, because it is a crisp word that trips off the tongue, and use *Symphyotrichum* only when necessary, or to impress. We will still call New England asters (*Symphyotrichum novi-angliae*), and European Michaelmas-daisy (*Aster amellus*), and even China asters (*Callistephus chinensis*), asters.

So, the next time we “harumpf” over a botanical name change we should remember it is serious science.

But we gardeners don't have to take it so seriously. ☺

David Mount is a former NHS board member and a frequent contributor to GardenNotes and other publications. You can read his blog at mountgardens.com.



Aster amellus – Wikipedia Commons –
Christer T. Johansson



Symphyotrichum novi-belgii (New York aster) – Wikipedia
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JAPANESE MAPLES

Words and Photos by Richie Steffen (unless otherwise noted)

Acer palmatum 'Beni shichiengi'

WHAT PLANT LOVER HAS NOT LUSTED AFTER a special Japanese maple at a plant sale or nursery? These choice trees are a fixture of the Northwest landscape and for good reason. The enormous diversity within this group is phenomenal, offering plants that range from compact dwarf shrubs to graceful, stately trees. The variations of foliage form and color add another dimension that is hard to beat by any other woody plant. To top all of this off, we have some of the best Japanese maple growers

in the country here in the Pacific Northwest providing a steady stream of beautiful plants to our local nurseries.

These wonderful points lead to one of the biggest problems with the group – how do you decide? Japanese maples can be a confusing group of plants to sort out, starting with the common name. There are three different species that are often referred to as Japanese maple, the first being the most widely grown species,



Acer palmatum 'Ōsakazuki'



Acer palmatum 'Hogyoku' (courtesy Miller Garden)

Acer palmatum, native to Japan, Korea and China. The other two species are *Acer japonicum*, native to the same range as *A. palmatum*, and *Acer shirasawanum*, native only to Japan. *A. japonicum* and *A. shirasawanum* also share a second common name, full moon maple. These three species have been in cultivation for hundreds of years resulting in the selection of a multitude of cultivars, mostly selections of *Acer palmatum* as well as a few hybrids between species.

The sorting out of cultivars has presented a challenge for many authors and specialty societies over the years. Horticultural "groups" place together cultivars with similar traits. Horticultural groups differ from subspecies (abbreviated as ssp. or subsp.) and varieties (abbreviated as var.) that are commonly seen as part of a botanical Latin name. Subspecies and varieties generally describe defining characteristics of plants found in the wild using morphological differences (varying leaf shapes, growth habits for fruiting structures, etc.), genetic differences and geographic differences. Horticultural groups are almost always used to organize plants by ornamental qualities, and the group names are capitalized but not italicized and not in quotes like cultivars. If the group name is followed by a cultivar name, the group name is in parentheses. An example would be: *Acer palmatum* Dissectum Group for an unnamed cutleaf Japanese maple. A

named cultivar of cutleaf maple would be listed as *Acer palmatum* (Dissectum Group) 'Garnet'.



Acer palmatum 'Aoyagi'

Over the years several proposals have been made to create horticultural groups in which to place maple cultivars, and there are also varying proposals in books. Some developed quite complicated systems to deal with the diverse variations that exist. Other systems lacked the complex structure by dumping unusual forms into groups called "other." Fortunately, the Maple Society has adopted a group system that is varied enough to handle the complexity of the vast number of cultivars, but uncomplicated enough to be useful for the everyday gardener. The Maple

Society's system incorporates cultivars of *Acer palmatum*, *Acer japonicum* and *Acer shirasawanum* into 17 groups based on foliage shape, foliage color, bark color and habit.

The first three groups contain most of what we would consider the green leafed upright maples and are based on variation that can be found in Japanese maples growing in the wild. These groups are the Amoenum Group, Matsumarae Group and Palmatum Group.

Palmatum Group: This is probably the most encountered leaf form and represents the leaf shape of most green seedling Japanese maples. The leaves are divided no more than 2/3rds of the way to the leaf base with 5 to 7 lobes and have no characteristics in leaf color or shape, bark color or texture that places them in one of the other groups. A beautiful cultivar in this group is 'Aoyagi'. A moderate grower when young, ten-year-old trees can reach 15 to 18 feet tall with mature trees reaching up to 30 feet. It is the last maple to turn color in the fall at the Miller Garden and once the leaves have dropped it reveals bright lime green stems.

Amoenum Group: This group is distinguished by seven lobed leaves with simple serration along the edges. Leaves have wide and shallowly divided lobes



Acer palmatum 'Omurayama' (courtesy Miller Garden)



Acer palmatum 'Bloodgood' (courtesy Miller Garden)

less than half way to the leaf base with no other characteristics such as foliage color or variegation that assign them to one of the other groups. One of the most widely grown cultivars of this group is *Acer palmatum* 'Ōsakazuki', a slow growing selection reaching 10 to 12 feet in ten years and 15 to 18 feet in 20 years with a rounded crown. It was selected for consistently producing brilliant fire engine red autumn color. At the Miller Garden we grow this selection along with its counterpart, 'Hōgyoku', with pumpkin orange fall color of a similar size.



Acer palmatum 'Katsura'



Acer palmatum 'Shindeshojo'

Matsumarae Group: These plants have deeply divided leaf lobes reaching more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way to the leaf base. Leaves are 7 to 9 lobed, but not doubly serrate or weeping in habit like plants of the Dissectum Group. There are not many selections of this green leaf group being propagated currently, but one beautiful form that is occasionally available is *Acer palmatum* 'Omure yama', a slow growing, small tree with bright green leaves that turn orange with red blushes in autumn. As the tree ages it will develop branches

with weeping tips creating a graceful flowing crown that reminds one of a weeping willow.

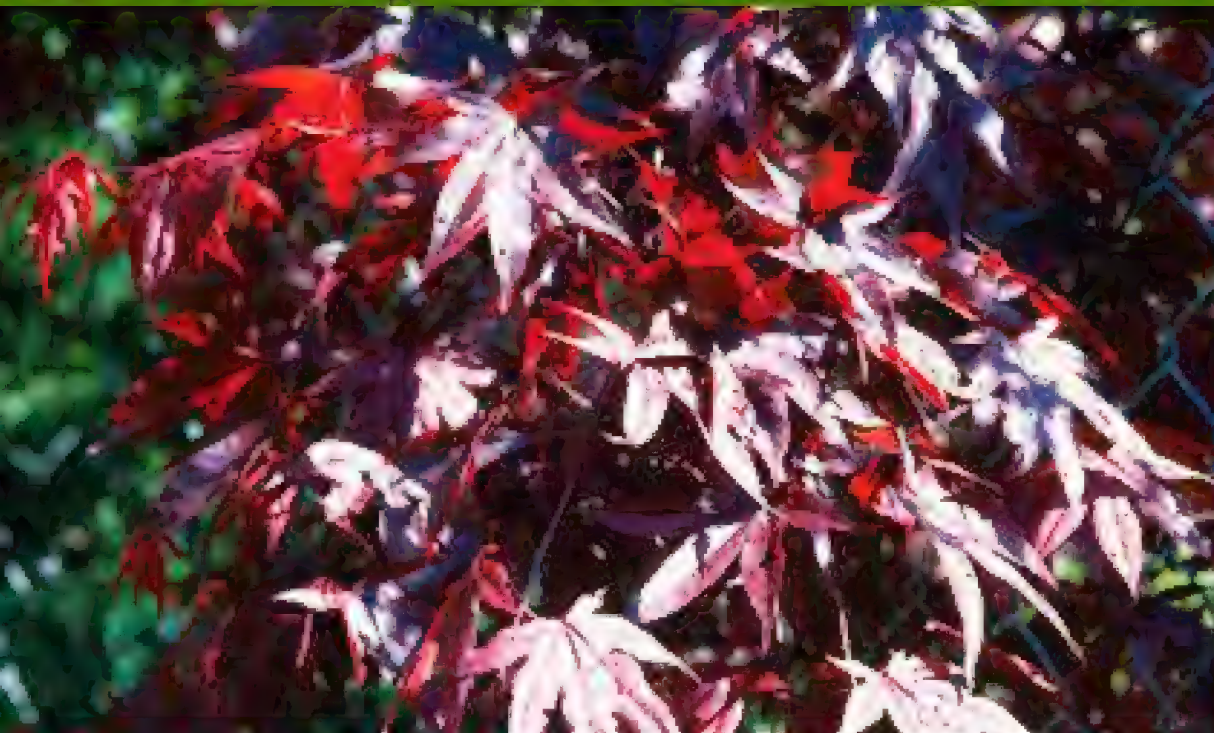
Several groups are based on leaf color. Nearly all of the trees in these groups represent upright growers. Some of the most common cultivars are in these groups as well as some of the showiest and most sought after selections.

Atropurpureum Group: This contains all the upright growing cultivars with red foliage, with the exception of those with extremely narrow lobed leaves belonging to the Linearilobum Group or dwarf selections belonging to the Witches Broom Group. The Atropurpureum

Group represents the red leafed Japanese maples that are ubiquitous in our neighborhoods. There are an abundance of superior color forms that will hold their

deep burgundy color throughout the growing season and provide breathtaking autumn color. The standard in the nursery industry is *Acer palmatum* (Atropurpureum Group) 'Bloodgood'. This vigorous grower has deep purplish-red foliage that does not fade in the summer heat along with quick growth for a Japanese maple. A ten year old tree can reach 18 to 20 feet with mature

specimens growing to 30 feet over many years. 'Bloodgood' is currently being considered by the Great Plant Picks committee to become a GPP; a similarly vigorous grower, *A. palmatum* 'Wolff' EMPEROR I® is already on the GPP list as a superior form for our region. At the Miller Garden we grow a smaller version called 'Umegae'. Our 20-year-old tree is about 15 feet tall and the same in width with dark burgundy foliage flushed with a green undertone and bright green veins. The fall color is fabulous! One of the most unusual red leaf selections is 'Twombly's



Acer palmatum 'Wolff' EMPEROR I® (courtesy Great Plant Picks)



Acer palmatum 'Orange Dream' (courtesy Miller Garden)

Red Sentinel' (Palmatum Red Group). This tree grows with a narrow upright form, unique from nearly every other Japanese maple selection. A must for those tight spaces in the small city garden.

Aureum Group: This group is characterized by yellow or orange spring foliage eventually turning chartreuse to pale green in summer. Great Plant Picks has noted *Acer palmatum* 'Katsura' as one of the best. This selection has bright golden yellow new foliage that brightens to clear yellow before maturing to a rich

light green. This cultivar is best grown with protection from the afternoon sun to prevent burning on the branch tips in late summer. *A. palmatum* 'Orange Dream' also has golden yellow spring growth with larger foliage blushed red along the leaf edges giving an orange appearance. This cultivar is becoming more widely available and will grow to 10 to 12 feet in ten years with mature plants generally staying below 18 feet in height.

Corallinum Group: Cultivars in this group show bright pink tones in spring.

A striking example is *Acer palmatum* 'Shindeshojo'. The new foliage is a shocking neon pink. A slow growing smaller tree, rounded in form, reaches a mature

height of under 15 feet. The slow rate of growth makes it an excellent candidate for container gardening.

tains variegated cultivars where the leaf margins are distinctly different in color from the rest of the leaf. One widely grown selection is *Acer palmatum* 'Butterfly', a slow upright grower with dense twiggy growth. In spring, leaves are blushed pink and green, then quickly brighten to white and green. A classic variegated cultivar is 'Beni shichiengi'. The new growth is a deep pink and green slowly fading to white and green creating a spectacular show into early summer. Keep both of these out of hot sun to prevent burning.



Acer palmatum 'Ukigumo' (courtesy Great Plant Picks)



Acer palmatum 'Sister Ghost'

height of under 15 feet. The slow rate of growth makes it an excellent candidate for container gardening.

There are many different ways Japanese maples can be variegated. The Maple Society's divisions create three groups to fit all of the variegated cultivars. Many of these variegated cultivars are prone to reverting, so all green shoots should be pruned out when they are noticed.

Marginatum Group: This group con-

Variegatum Group: The Variegatum Group consists of all other variegated Japanese maples not in the Marginatum Group. The glowing cultivar *Acer palmatum* 'Ukigumo', commonly called floating cloud maple, is an old Japanese selection. As the new growth emerges, the leaves are almost entirely pink flushed white with a few flecks of green. As the leaves mature, they become green, heavily speckled and splashed with white.

Reticulatum Group: The leaf veins of

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1 'Sango Kaku'
2 'Hogyoku'
3 'Garnet'
4 'Red Pygmy'
5 'Kiyohime'

6 'Sister Ghost'
7 'Osakasuki'
8 'Villa Torrance'
9 'Umegae'
10 'Peaches n' Cream'

11 'Shishigashira'
12 'Suminagashi'
13 'Koto-no-Ito'

the cultivars in this group are distinctly different in color from the rest of the leaf. Although most of the cultivars showing this trait are green and white, there are more and more purple leaf forms, often with pink veins. *Acer palmatum* 'Peaches and Cream' is an excellent example of this reticulated pattern. The new growth is lightly blushed pink quickly fading to a bright spring pea green, but with eye-catching creamy white variegation following the leaf veins creating a spiderweb-like pattern. This slow growing tree will reach about 8 feet in ten years and mature specimens can reach 15 feet. A smaller, lacy version of this is 'Sister Ghost'. The first time I saw this maple, I knew I had to have it. Its slow growth and graceful, broad umbrella-like form make a gorgeous container specimen. Two tantalizing regional selections are 'Olsen's Frosted Strawberry' and 'Purple

Ghost' (Palmatum Variegated Group). 'Olsen's Frosted Strawberry' has strawberry pink new growth that fades to a white frosted green leaf on a slow and small tree suitable for containers or as a specimen in a small garden. This selection was made by the late Harry Olsen of Bellevue, Washington. 'Purple Ghost' is an Oregon selection made by the talented Talon Buchholtz, owner of Buchholtz & Buchholtz Nursery, a wholesale supplier of many excellent plants to many of our local garden centers and nurseries.

Japanese Maples, Part II will continue in the winter issue of Garden Notes. ☺

Richie Steffen is Executive Director of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden and a board member of NHS.

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Loretta Turner
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Eileen Van Schaik
Ralene Walls
Kathe Watanabe
Jean Weaver
Wendy Welch
Jackie White
Joanne White
Sherri Wilson
Withey Price Landscape & Design LLC
Phil Wood
Jenny Wyatt
Ann Wyckoff

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 Anne Biederman
 Barbara Coughlin
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 Donna Driver
 Lynn B Hranac
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 Jean Jones
 J Michele LeFevre
 Master Gardener Foundation of
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 Susan A Miller
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 Julie Weiss

LITERARY NOTES

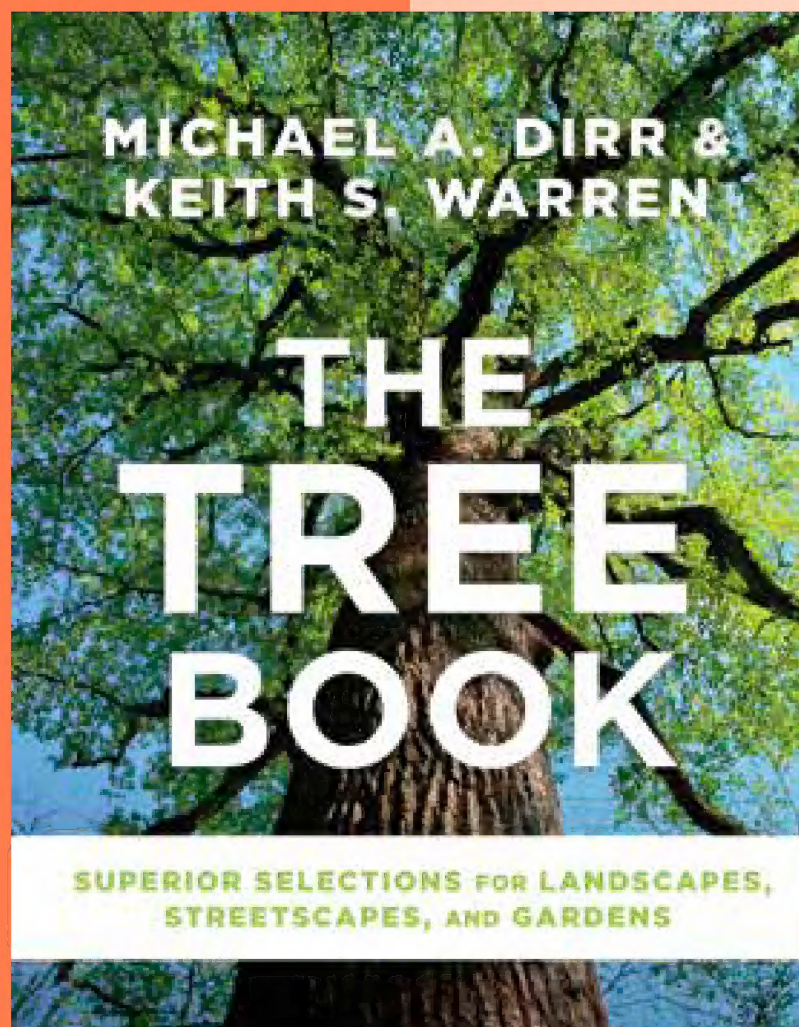
from the Miller Library

by Brian Thompson

Michael Dirr is the guru of woody plants. Beginning in 1975, his *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* – through six editions as of 2009 – has been required reading for any horticultural student. These books are very technical and rely on line drawings to illustrate their subjects.

Working with Timber Press, Dirr changed directions in 1997 with the publication of *Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs*. Described by the author as “a photographic essay that profiles and highlights the most common woody landscape plants,” this proved an excellent way to reach a more general gardening audience. This style continued with *Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs* (2012).

While this last book will remain an important reference because of its inclusion of shrubs and helpful lists of selection criteria, the photographic essay approach reached a new height this year with the publication of *The Tree Book*. For the first time, it is written with a co-author, Keith Warren. While Dirr is from the Southeast, spending his academic career at the University of Georgia, Warren is a retired tree breeder and nurseryman from Oregon. His voice makes this new book especially valuable to gardeners in the Pacific Northwest.



Photographs are still the eye-grabbers of this huge book (940 pages!), but the text has been expanded to achieve the right balance of being informative without excess detail and is often very funny. Reading about sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), I learned that in its native Georgia it can reach 60', but “in the dry summers of the West, a 20' height is a big tree.” The authors claim this as a favorite species, looking good in all seasons, with the best being fall: “Like a drum roll, the fall color comes on slowly and intensifies, finally reaching a crescendo.”

The authors do an excellent job of highlighting the best of new cultivars or selections of their subjects. For example, I learned of nine cultivars of one of my favorite trees, the Persian ironwood (*Parrotia persica*) – I only knew of one! There is even a newly available species, *Parrotia subaequalis*, which in Oregon has fall color that “is consistently brilliant red, brighter than *P. persica*.”

This is a reference book and not available to check out from the Miller Library. However, if you are planting new trees, or want to learn more about trees, I recommend visiting the library before the next NHS meeting and seeking out this book. 🌳

Brian Thompson is the manager and curator of horticultural literature for the Elisabeth C. Miller Library.

President's Message



Dear Garden Friends,

By the time this newsletter reaches your home, the beginning of autumn will be nipping at our heels! I must admit that autumn is my favorite season for many reasons: the final crescendo of blossoms for the year holds a special place in my heart, the excitement of choosing and ordering next year's bulbs, the beautiful fall asters and chrysanthemums, the crisp fall afternoons, and spectacular fall color on all the amazing deciduous trees in the Pacific Northwest. Work in the garden slows to a less hectic pace, although falling leaves and cleanup after the growing season still keep us all busy. There's time for reflection on and in the garden to consider and make appropriate changes, whether you add some new plants or remove some that have overstayed their welcome. Maybe we, as gardeners, have a better sense of time and are in touch with the seasons better since our constant observations of the cycle of life in our garden spaces help guide us throughout the year.

This fall is also very bittersweet for me personally. With the unexpected passing of my mother this past summer, I realize that time stops for no one. We need to enjoy every minute we have with our families and friends. Cherish small events, phone calls, and notes from loved ones. One moment I still cherish was this past Mother's Day when my mother visited me. Her visit was punctuated with a wonderful Mother's Day party surrounded by friends and family, and a beautiful bouquet of her favorite flowers, dark red peonies. I'm planning on adding these to my own garden this fall in her memory. If you have a plant that holds a special memory for you, let us know the story behind it and we may share it with our readers in one of the next editions. (Write to info@northwesthort.org).

This past summer saw a new adventure for our Meet the Board tour. This year, we held this annual fun event on Vashon Island, which was a great success. Most of us had to travel by ferry to this wonderful island for an amazing lineup of gardens. The Meet the Board tour committee should be very proud of this year's inspirational event and I am also extending a heartfelt "Thank you!" to all the garden owners for hosting us. Next year's tour will be equally exciting so stand by for further news as plans shape up.

As a reminder, our Wednesday night lecture series at the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH) in Seattle has one more event left for the year on November 13th which will be Clay Antieau's talk, "Grasses, All Around You." Our annual lectures are a wonderful way to learn and educate ourselves on the different aspects of gardening, plants, and garden design. They also support the mission of the Northwest Horticultural Society and provide a forum for gardeners and plant lovers in the Pacific Northwest to share their interest and learn about horticulture. I look forward to seeing you at our future events.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I am wishing you all a great fall season.

Happy gardening! ☺

Jason Jorgensen
NHS President

EVENTS

November 13, 2019

2019 Annual Meeting

Center for Urban Horticulture

Reception 6:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Lecture immediately following the
Annual Meeting

Clay Antieau, Scientist, City of Seattle

Grasses, All Around You

GARDENnotes

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“To create a garden is to search for a better world. In our effort to improve on nature, we are guided by a vision of paradise. Whether the result is a horticultural masterpiece or only a modest vegetable patch, it is based on the expectation of a glorious future. This hope for the future is at the heart of all gardening.”

—— Marina Shinz

Panicum virgatum ‘Shenandoah’
Photo by Richie Steffen